

MARVEL

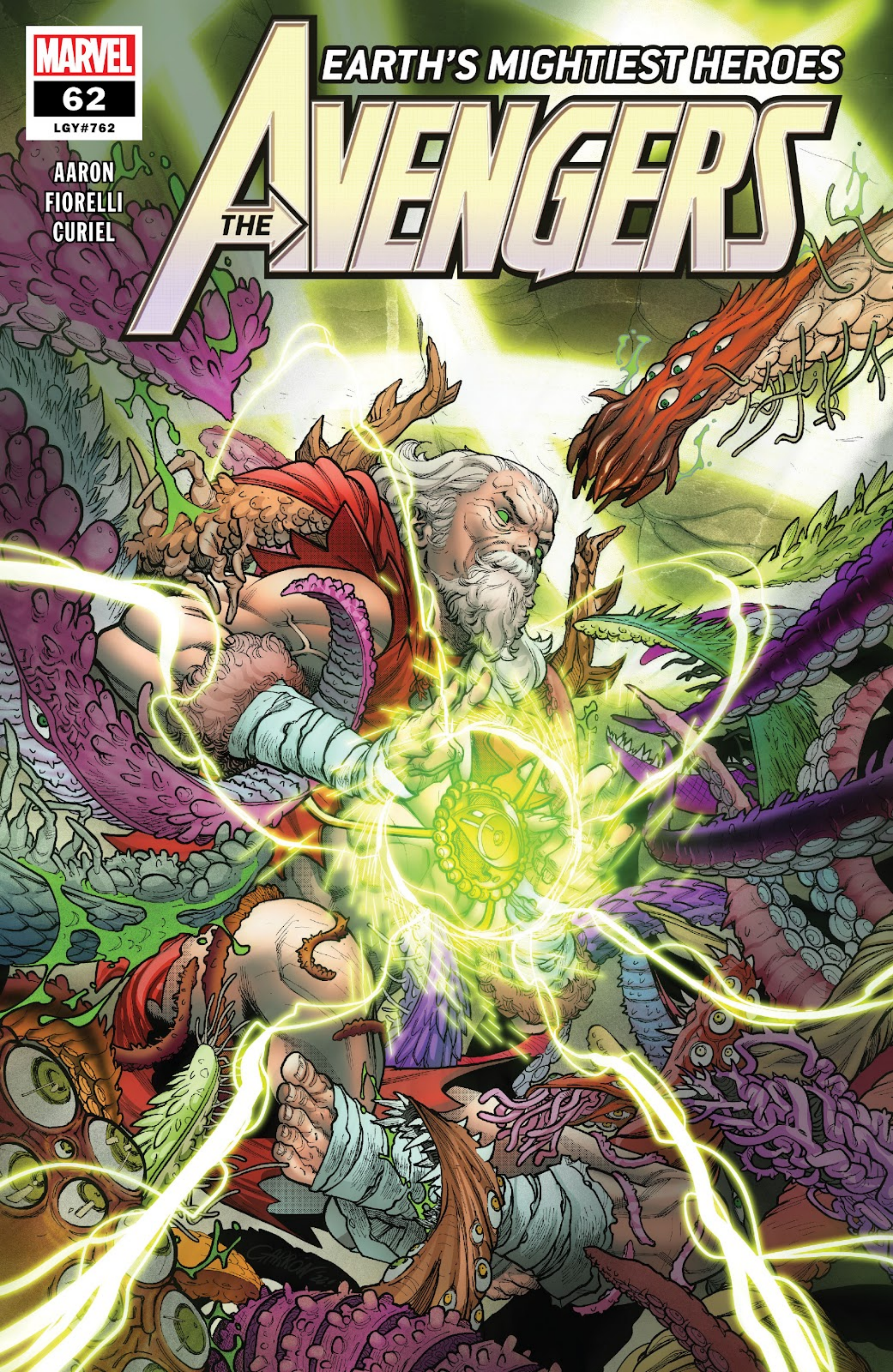
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LGY#762

**AARON
FIORELLI
CURIEL**

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

THE AVENGERS



MARVEL REMEMBERS

TOM PALMER

1941–2022



“Yet another comic legend has left us. Aside from being an incredible inker and painter, Tom was a true gentleman. He was like Obi-Wan to so many young editors and artists, freely sharing his experiences and wisdom with us all. Rest in peace, Tom.”

—C.B. CEBULSKI

And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's mightiest heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born--to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

The demon Mephisto has been bedeviling the Avengers, traveling through time in an effort to unravel their history. The Avengers embarked on their own journey through time, seeking to protect the very first Avengers in the prehistoric past, battling Mephisto along the way in various time periods. Starbrand managed to attack Mephisto directly, though the exertion of her powers accelerated her aging. Mephisto escaped once more, but the now elderly Starbrand was able to finally send herself and the team to the needed prehistoric genesis point.



HISTORY'S MIGHTIEST HEROES, CONCLUSION
"THE MAN WHO KEEPS IT WEIRD"
By Jason Aaron & Ivan Fiorelli

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MANY YEARS AGO.
THE DAWN OF MAN.

SUCH A SIMPLE
CREATURE...IS THIS
PRIMITIVE MAN.

EVER DRIVEN TO
TERROR BY
EVERY LITTLE THING.

RRREEERGH!!!

WHEN THE WIND
BLOWS. WHEN
THE SUN SHINES.
WHEN THE SUN
GOES AWAY.

WHEN ONE OF
THEIR OWN
LIES STRICKEN.

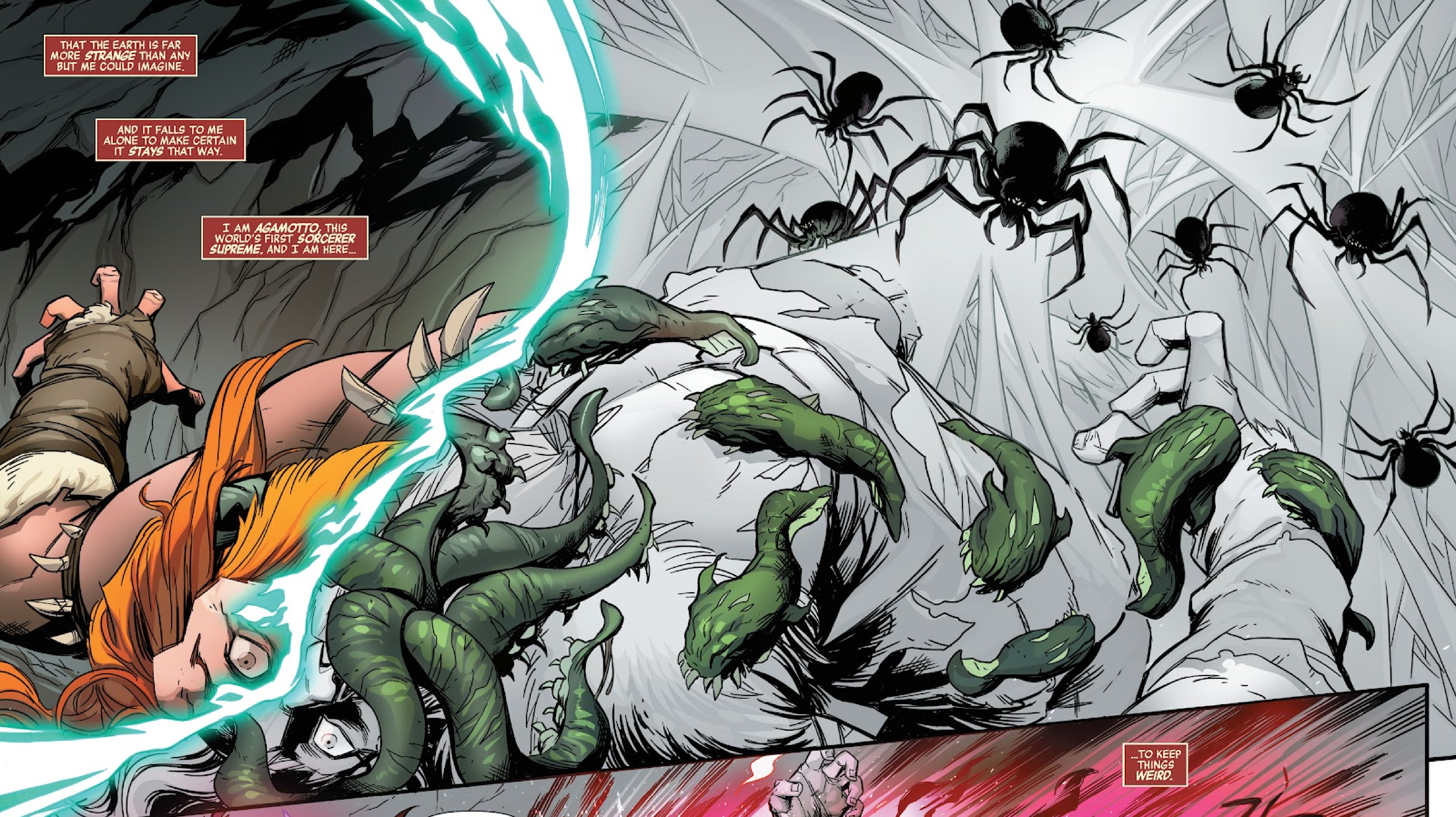
GHRRRK!

I SUPPOSE IT'S FOR THE BEST THAT
THEY EXIST IN A STATE OF SUCH
EASILY SPOOKED IGNORANCE, FOR
IT SAVES THEM FROM EVER EVEN
GLIMPING THE REAL TRUTH.

THAT THE EARTH IS FAR MORE *STRANGE* THAN ANY BUT ME COULD IMAGINE.

AND IT FALLS TO ME ALONE TO MAKE CERTAIN IT *STAYS* THAT WAY.

I AM AGAMOTTO, THIS WORLD'S FIRST *SORCERER SUPREME*. AND I AM HERE...



...TO KEEP THINGS *WEIRD*.

TRY TO RELAX. THIS MIGHT *STING* A BIT.



MY MYSTIC KNOWLEDGE
STRETCHES FAR BEYOND
THE LIMITS OF THIS PLANET'S
UNDERSTANDING. YET I
KNOW NOT THE SIMPLEST OF
THINGS ABOUT MY OWN SELF.

SUCH AS HOW
I CAME TO BE.



WAS I BORN AN **APE-MAN**, LIKE
THESE CRUDE, CAVE-DWELLING
PROTO-PEOPLE I PROTECT?

AM I A **SPIRIT** MADE FLESH?
THE TEAR OF AN ELDER GOD
GIVEN SENTENCE?

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I
DO NOT SPEND MUCH TIME
PONDERING SUCH QUESTIONS.



FOR IT IS NOT THE
PAST THAT MOST
CONCERNS ME.



THE EARTH HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN **ODD** LITTLE MUD BALL.

LIKE A PREDILECTION FOR THE BIZARRE IS BAKED INTO ITS DIRT. INTO THE FLESH OF ITS BEASTS.

QUITE THE COLLECTION OF NASTY **PARASITES** YOU PICKED UP.

THERE ARE THINGS OUT THERE FROM THE WICKEDEST OF REALMS THAT **FEED** ON JUST SUCH EXOTIC EMBRYOS.

MIND MAGGOTS. PURPLE FLESH-NESTERS. SOME MANNER OF NETHER-SQUID.

BUT I BELIEVE WE GOT THEM ALL. AND IF THESE **SOUL-STITCHES** HOLD, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANY **SPIRITUAL INFECTIONS**.

BUT WHEN THE DEVOURERS COME HERE, TEETH BARED, BELLIES GRUMBLING...ALL THEY GET A MOUTHFUL OF IS **ME**.

IT KEEPS ME... **OCCUPIED**.

SO...FEELING **BETTER**? DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D LIKE A **TOUR** OF THE MYSTIC SANCTUM I'VE GOT HERE? I MEAN, IT'S NOT OFTEN I GET MANY--



AAAAAAIIIIHHH!!!

I PRY OTHERDIMENSIONAL LEECHES OFF THESE PEOPLE. I TEACH THEM WHICH HERBS TO USE TO HEAL THEMSELVES. WHICH TOADS TO LICK TO EXPAND THEIR MINDS.

BECAUSE I SEE WHERE THEIR TIMELINE LEADS. IN ALL THE MOST APPALLING AND INSPIRING DIRECTIONS.

HMPH. LET'S HOPE THEY DEVELOP SOME GRATTITUDE AFTER A FEW CENTURIES.

AND BECAUSE I'M THE ONLY SOUL ALIVE WHO CAN DO WHAT I DO. WHO CAN WALK WHERE I WALK.



IT'S AN HONOR, I TELL MYSELF. A PRIVILEGE TO GUARD THIS WORLD, I KNOW. IT'S JUST THAT SOME DAYS...

WELL, THEN. LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.



...SOME DAYS, IT'S DOWNRIGHT LONELY BEING THE WEIRDEST MAN ALIVE.

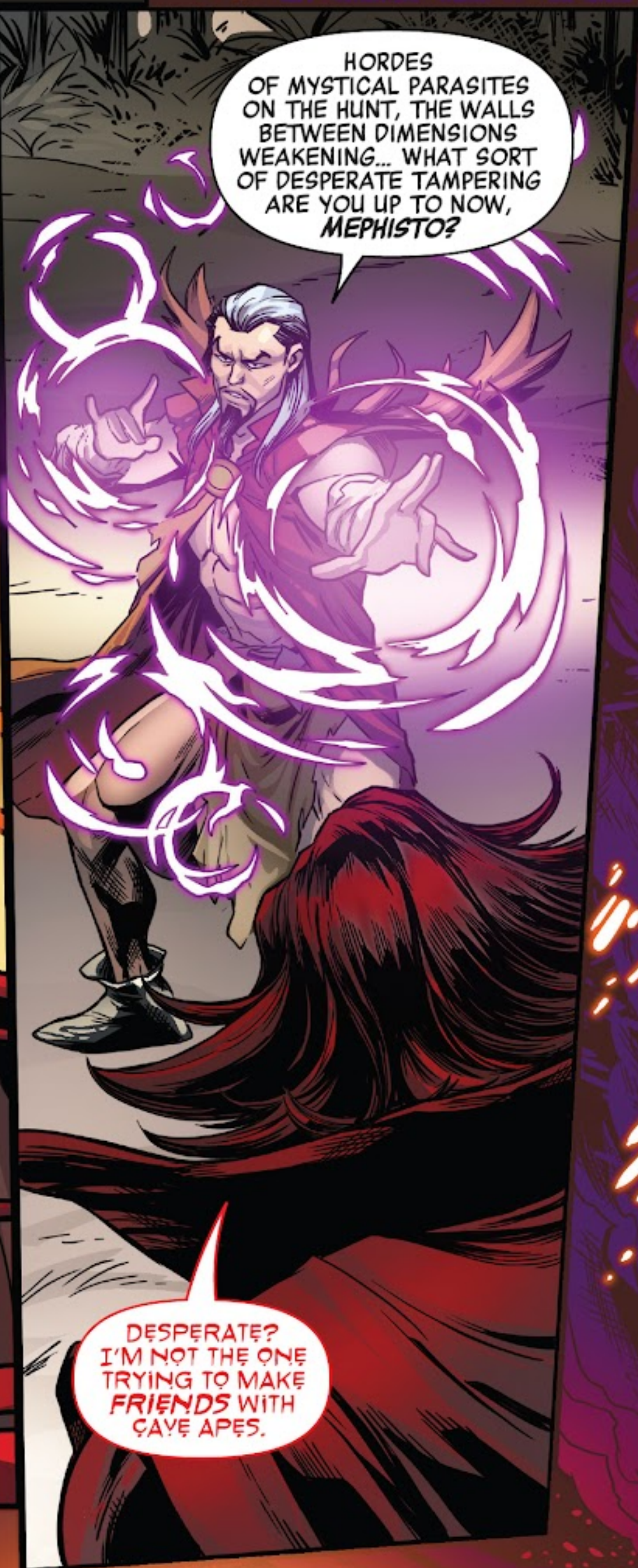
BY THE POWER OF THE VISHANTI, APPEAR BEFORE ME!



OH DEAR,
HOW VERY
PATHETIC.

I HATE TO
BREAK IT TO YOU,
AGAMOTTO, BUT THE
BEST YOU CAN HOPE FOR
IS THAT SOMEDAY THESE
MAN-BEASTS WILL BE
"ENLIGHTENED" ENOUGH
TO BURN YOU AT THE
STAKE AS A DEVIL-
WORSHIPPING
WARLOCK.

WON'T THAT
BE DELICIOUSLY
IRONIC?



HORDES
OF MYSTICAL PARASITES
ON THE HUNT, THE WALLS
BETWEEN DIMENSIONS
WEAKENING... WHAT SORT
OF DESPERATE TAMPERING
ARE YOU UP TO NOW,
MEPHISTO?

DESPERATE?
I'M NOT THE ONE
TRYING TO MAKE
FRIENDS WITH
CAVE APES.



MUST I
REMIND YOU HOW
MANY TIMES I'VE
DEFEATED YOU OVER
THE EONS?

OH, MORE
THAN I CARE
TO COUNT, NO
DOUBT.

THEN I
SUPPOSE YOU
CAN GUESS WHAT
HAPPENS NEXT.

YOU'RE THE
ONE WITH THE
MAGIC EYES,
SORCERER.



YOU TELL
ME!

HE'S RIGHT.
SUDDENLY, I
SEE IT ALL.

I SEE WORLDS
RAVAGED.

THE GREAT HEROES OF
PREHISTORY, FROM EARTHS
JUST LIKE THIS ONE...

...ALL STRUCK DOWN.
ALL BUTCHERED.

AND HERE I
STAND ALONE.
ON EARTH-616.

INTERESTING
NUMBER, THAT.
ON SOME WORLDS,
THEY CALL IT...



HRRRGHK!

...THE TRUE
NUMBER OF
THE BEAST.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR LITTLE GAGGLE OF SUPER-FREAKS? THE GODS AND MONSTERS? THAT PLANET-BURNING FIREBIRD? SHE SEEMED **FUN**.*

DON'T TELL ME THEY'VE **ABANDONED** YOU IN YOUR HOUR OF GREATEST NEED?

I'VE NEVER NEEDED ANYONE ELSE TO DEAL WITH YOU, MEPHISTO.

BY ALL THE POWERS OF THE MYSTIC ARTS, YOU SHALL FALL, DEVIL!

*YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, IF YOU READ **THE AVENGERS' 1,000,000 B.C. SPECIAL!** --TOM

HEH. TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION FROM EARLIER: 312. THAT'S HOW MANY TIMES YOU'VE **HUMILIATED** ME OVER THE YEARS.

HGGHEERK!

BUT WHO'S KEEPING COUNT?

ALL THOSE EONS, THEY ALL WENT BY SO FAST. I SUPPOSE I STILL HOPED... LIKE SOME SORT OF CAVE-DWELLING FOOL...

...THAT I HAD MORE TIME.

AAAAAGGH!





IT'S ONLY
GETTING WORSE
OUT THERE.

I HAD ONE
LAST WEEK...CONVINCED
THE REST OF HIS TRIBE
THAT HE SPOKE FOR THE
GREAT LIGHT IN
THE SKY.

HE TOLD
THEM THAT THE
LIGHT HAD DECIDED
WHO SHOULD EAT
AND WHO SHOULD
STARVE.

THAT IT
WAS THE WILL
OF THE SKY THAT
ALL THEIR CHILDREN
BE TIED TO STAKES
AND LEFT TO ROAST.
ONLY HE WAS
ALLOWED TO
BREED.



WHEN I
CAME FOR HIM,
THE OTHER MEN...
THEY ACTUALLY
FOUGHT TO
PROTECT
HIM.

I ENDED
UP...HAVING
TO BURN THEM
ALL.



I USED TO
THINK...GIVEN
ENOUGH Penance...
THEY WOULD SEE
THE WAY.

THEY WOULD
RISE ABOVE THEIR
NATURES.

BUT NOW,
AFTER SO MANY
RIDES...

...I
DESPAIR
FOR THEM.
I DO.



YOU SEE
THE FUTURE,
DO YOU NOT,
WIZARD?

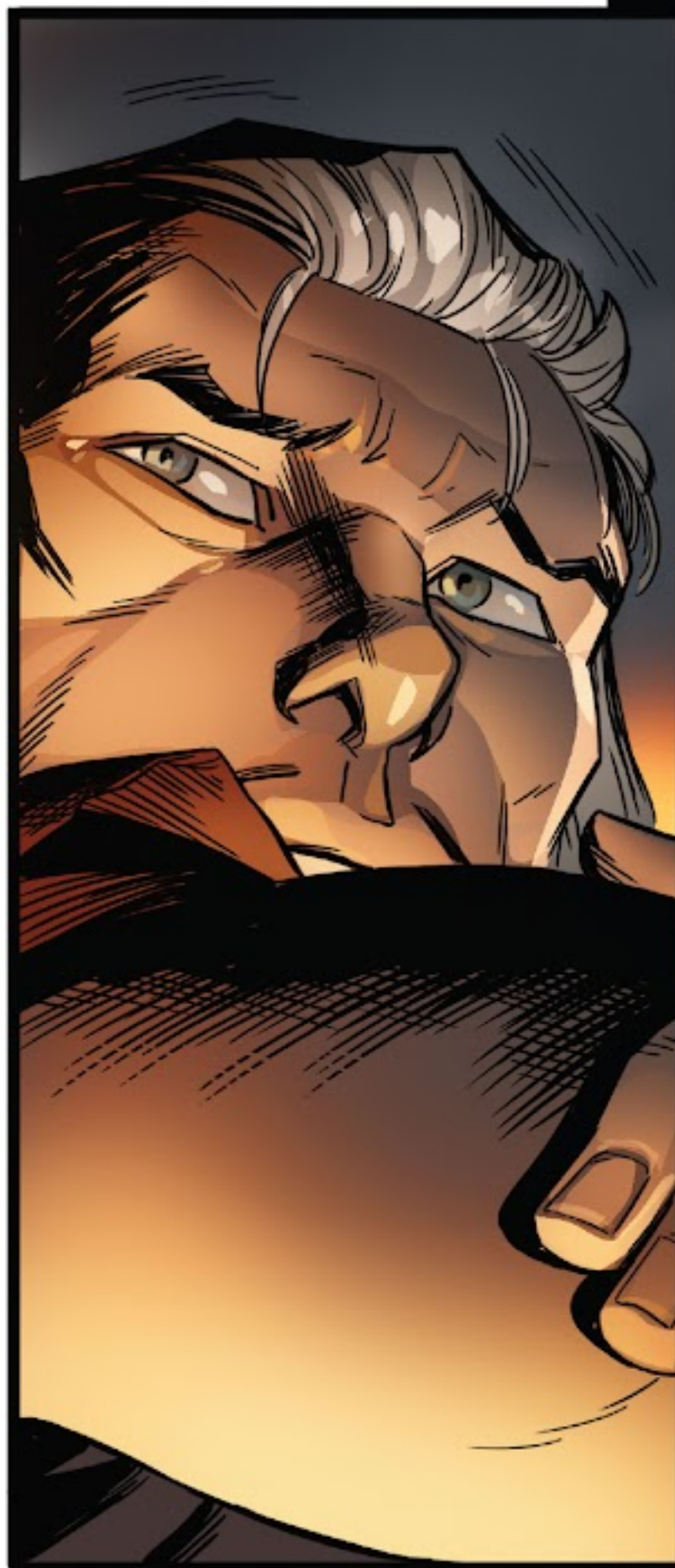
THEN TELL
ME ONE THING.
WILL IT EVER
END?

I...HAVE
BEEN KNOWN
TO DO SO.

WILL...
WHAT...EVER
END...GHOST
RIDER?



SIN.



NO.

NO, IT WILL
MOST ASSUREDLY
NOT.

THE MORE
HUMANKIND GROWS
AND SPREADS...



...THE MORE
NEW WAYS THEY
WILL DEVISE TO SLAY
AND DEFILE ONE
ANOTHER.



DO YOU
HAVE ANY IDEA...
HOW MUCH **TORMENT**
I HAVE TO ENDURE...
TO BE...

...THIS?

I AM SURE
EVEN I CANNOT
IMAGINE. AND I CAN
IMAGINE MORE
THAN MOST.



TELL
ME **WHY** I'M
DOING THIS,
WIZARD.

WHY
I'VE GIVEN
SO MUCH TO FIGHT
A WAR...THAT YOU'RE
TELLING ME WE'LL
NEVER WIN.

WIZARD?

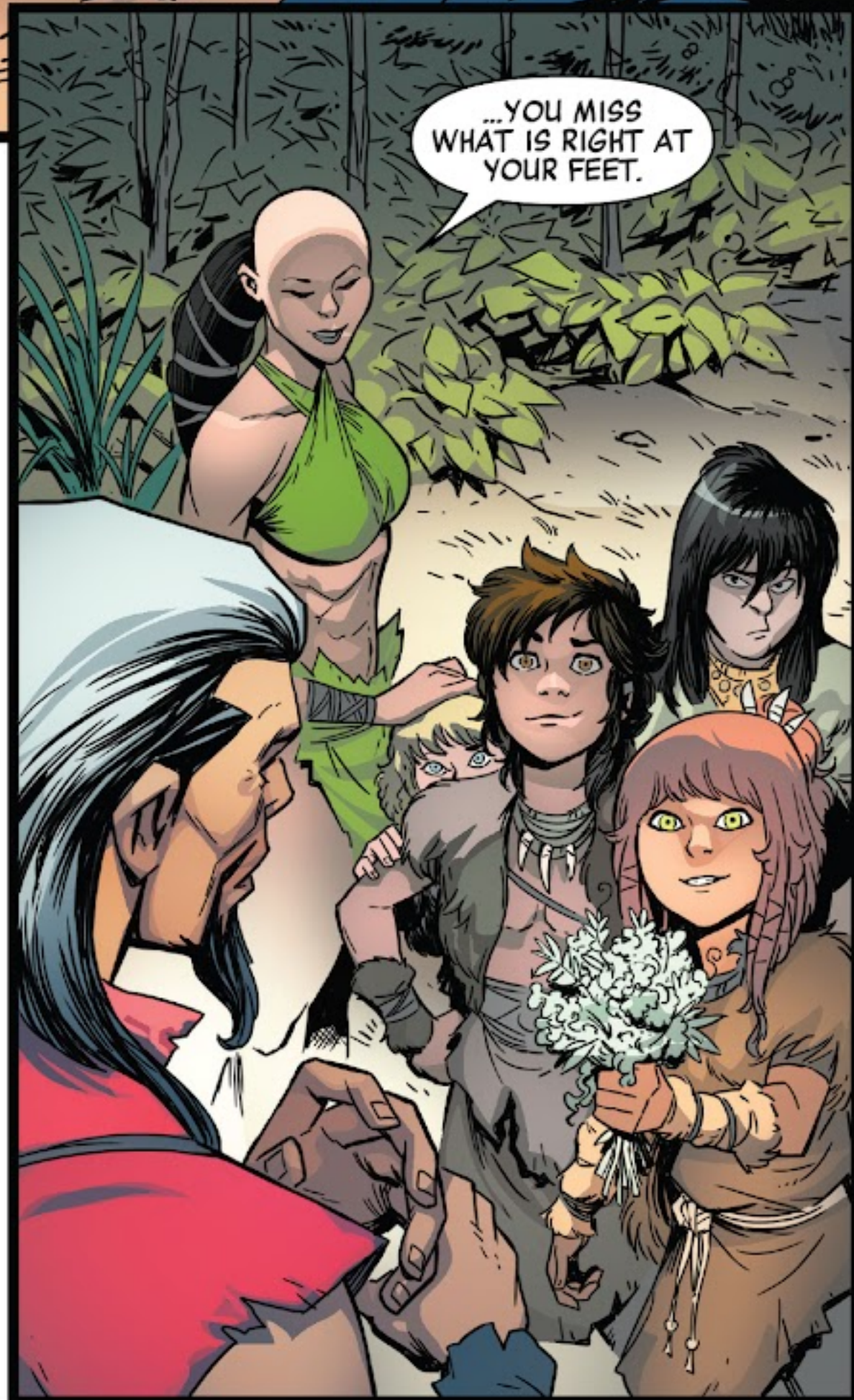


SO,
HOW DID YOU
ANSWER?



I DID
NOT HAVE
ONE.

PERHAPS
YOUR PROBLEM IS
THAT YOU SEE **TOO
MUCH**, AGAMOTTO. IF
YOU KEEP YOUR EYES
ALWAYS ON THE
HORIZON...



...YOU MISS
WHAT IS RIGHT AT
YOUR FEET.



THESE PEOPLE HAVE THE
CAPACITY TO DESTROY
THEMSELVES, TO MAKE
A RUIN OF THIS ENTIRE
PLANET, THIS IS TRUE.

BUT THEY MAY YET
SURPRISE US IF WE
CONTINUE TO FIGHT
TO GIVE THEM THE
CHANCE.

I UNDERSTAND
YOU'VE BEEN
CARRYING ON THAT
FIGHT, **IRON FIST**,
EVEN WITHOUT THE
REST OF US.



THE DANGERS DID NOT STOP COMING FOR THIS WORLD JUST BECAUSE EARTH'S ALMIGHTIEST HEROES WENT THEIR SEPARATE WAYS.

SO I FOUND **NEW** ALLIES.

HHHRK.

IT'S ALL RIGHT, **MOON KNIGHT**. HE'S A FRIEND.



AREN'T YOU, AGAMOTTO?

YOU'RE RIGHT-- I SEE TOO MUCH. DAMN MY EYES.

AND NOW I'VE SEEN WHAT'S COMING FOR US. WE'LL NEED ALL THE HEROES WE CAN FIND.



I'LL BE THERE, WHATEVER THE FIGHT.

I MAY HAVE BEEN BORN IN K'UN-LUN, BUT THE DESTINY OF THE IRON FIST IS BOUND TO THIS WORLD.

THOUGH I CANNOT SPEAK FOR THE REST OF OUR FORMER COMPATRIOTS. YOU'RE GOING TO SEE THEM ALL?

YES. ALL WHOM I CAN FIND.

I'D START WITH THE **BIG ONE** IF I WERE YOU.

AND WHERE MIGHT I FIND HIM?

WHERE ELSE?

"AMONG THE
STARS."

WE'VE ALL BEEN
FORGED THROUGH
SUFFERING, THE
BEINGS LIKE US.

THE IRON FIST HAS
MADE HER PEACE WITH
THAT, WITH BEING AN
EXILE FROM HER HOME.

FOR OTHERS...THE PAIN
IS ALWAYS THERE,
TEARING THEM APART.

GRRRRROORRGGGH!!!

I CAN
TAKE IT
AWAY.

IF YOU'LL
HELP ME IN THIS
FIGHT...I CAN TAKE
AWAY THE MEMORY
THAT VEXES YOU. I CAN
HELP YOU FORGET...
WHAT IT WAS
YOU *LOST*.

HHHRK.

NAME...WAS...
BRRKK.

AND I
NO WANT...
LET GO...OF
PAIN.

STARBRAND
WANT...MAKE
OTHERS
FEEL IT.

YOU...
TELL ME
WHO.



I FEEL THE PAIN
IN THE LAND OF THE
PANTHERS AS WELL.



NO.

PAIN OVER THE
FALL OF THEIR
FIGUREHEAD.



A PAIN SO GREAT...
I FEAR THEIR
DOORS WILL REMAIN
BARRED TO THE REST
OF THE WORLD...



...FOR A *VERY*
LONG TIME.







WHY SOME OF THEM...MAY VERY WELL DIE.

THE GHOST RIDER ASKED ME A QUESTION.

WHY DO WE BOTHER TO DO WHAT WE DO?



WHEN NO MATTER HOW WE FIGHT, THE WAR WILL NOT END.



I COULD TELL YOU... THAT THOSE OF US HERE...

...ARE BUT THE HERALDS OF AN AGE OF WONDERS.



I COULD TELL YOU THOSE THINGS, BUT THEN I FIGURED...

BY THE BLIZZARDS OF HEL...



**TO BE CONTINUED IN
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE ALPHA #1!**

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!



Welcome back, readers! We hope you've been enjoying our jaunt through time in recent issues. Before we delve into your thoughts on that, let's first make a stop in the prehistoric past, as explored in **AVENGERS 1,000,000 B.C. #1**.

Your story about the secret origin of Thor was sheer genius! I loved the way you wrote the Phoenix into the mix. Now I understand all the more Thor's love for our world. He inherited it from his two Earth mothers. Awesome! So believable! Thank you, Jason and Kev, for your outstanding piece of work. The art and coloring and everything else in this one-shot issue was excellent. Thanks again.

Robert Greg Espinosa
Stockton, California

And thank YOU for the kind words, Robert! Jason has been teasing the true origins of Thor's parentage in these pages (and elsewhere) for a long time now, so it was exciting for all of us to finally share the full story.

Hi team,

I'm getting confused with the AVENGERS' current arc. Throughout all the stories, they keep on referring to it as a trek through time. Wouldn't the Multiverse make more sense? They dealt with a Fury-Strange hybrid during WWII, which is just impossible if it were a time-travel story. Please explain.

Oliver De Guzman
Calgary, Canada

Hi, Oliver! The Avengers have indeed been traveling through time, though as explained in recent issues, Mephisto's meddling has resulted in some anomalies. But if it's

travels through the Multiverse you're looking for, Jason has been exploring that over in **AVENGERS FOREVER**. And the two series will soon intertwine in the upcoming **AVENGERS ASSEMBLE** crossover--but more on that on the next page!

Continuing with all the abstract concepts of time, prehistoric Avengers, chasing Mephisto, and the Phoenix force, the stories have been a bit TOO abstract for me. Let's get back to some down-to-earth stuff! Give the Avengers a real headquarters, NOT in some Celestial's head. If you're worried about collateral damage, put it out in an ocean somewhere.

Surely, Kyle Richmond (and even T'Challa before him) could afford a deserted island. Worried about transportation? *Eh*, Thor, Ghost Rider, and the other cosmically talented heroes can handle it. Though, I think what's been missing is the audience point-of-view character...like, say, a Hawkeye or a Black Widow non-powered type that the audience can relate to. Let's get back to the basics!

Alan Bowman
Sagamihara City, Japan

Issue #60 was focused entirely on both Hawkeye and Black Widow, Alan, so be sure to give it a read if you haven't already. And the Avengers were island-based for a good stretch of time...though sadly, Avengers Island ended up sinking (thanks for that, Doctor Doom!).

Our next issue is Part Two of the AVENGERS ASSEMBLE crossover event--the grand finale of Jason Aaron's epic run! So do we really need to say you should check it out?! We'll see you there!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE! Email us at MHEROES@MARVEL.COM and mark your messages "Okay to Print" for a chance to see them answered in future issues!

THE AVENGERS

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES



AVENGERS ASSEMBLE ALPHA #1 PART ONE

From throughout time and the far corners of the Multiverse, the Mightiest Heroes of all the Earths are assembling as never before for a battle beyond all imagining. A war that will take us from the prehistoric beginnings of an Earth under assault by the greatest villains who've ever lived to the watchtower that stands at the dark heart of the all and the always, where an army of unprecedented evil now rises. The biggest Avengers saga in Marvel history begins now.



AVENGERS ASSEMBLE PART TWO: THE BATTLE OF ONE MILLION B.C.

At long last, the Avengers stand face-to-face with their prehistoric counterparts, but if the two groups cannot work together, they have no hope of defeating Doom Supreme and his marauding band of Multiversal Masters of Evil, who have come to erase all of Marvel history as we know it.

